

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EUR/NE:APINKNEY:CN

APPROVED BY P - AMBASSADOR PORTER

EUR - MR. STABLER

EUR/NE - MR. BUELL

EUR/NE - MR. ANDREWS

S/S - MR. LUERS

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, IC, NO

SUBJECT: NORWEGIAN-ICELANDIC RELATIONS AND KEFLAVIK

REFERENCE: OSLO 328

1. PRIOR TO RECEIPT REFTTEL, NORWEGIAN MINISTER COUNSELOR SVERRE ASKED EUR/NE FOR A BRIEFING ON CURRENT STATUS OF ICELAND BASE NEGOTIATIONS AS HE THOUGHT FOREIGN MINISTER FRYDENLUND'S VISIT TO ICELAND WAS STILL SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 6-9. AT MEETING WITH SVERRE, WHERE WE GAVE HIM A BRIEF REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS, WE RAISED YOUR EXCELLENT SUGGESTION THAT FRYDENLUND CONSIDER BEING BRIEFED IN WASHINGTON SOMETIME DURING EAG MEETING. SVERRE SEEMED RECEPTIVE TO THE IDEA WHICH HE INDICATED HE WOULD REPORT TO HIS MINISTRY. HE NOTED THAT ANY SUCH BRIEFING WOULD DEPEND UPON TIME BEING AVAILABLE DURING FRYDENLUND'S STAY IN WASHINGTON. YOU MAY CONVEY TO APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS IN THE GON THAT DEPT IS WILLING TO PROVIDE BRIEFING, IF FRYDENLUND DESIRES.

2. THE NEGOTIATIONS AT THE PRESENT TIME ARE WAITING UPON

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THE GOI TO FORMULATE A RESPONSE TO OUR NOVEMBER PROPOSALS.

UNFORTUNATELY, THE COMMUNIST PEOPLE'S ALLIANCE DEVELOPED A PLAN WHICH WOULD, AS WE UNDERSTAND IT, CALL FOR A WITHDRAWAL OF THE ICELAND DEFENSE FORCE WITHIN THREE YEARS, AND WE FEAR THAT THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COALITION WILL TAKE THE EASY WAY OUT AND BASE THE GOI COUNTERPROPOSAL ON THE COMMUNIST PLAN. WE EXPECT THE NEXT NEGOTIATING ROUND TO TAKE PLACE IN WASHINGTON SHORTLY AFTER THE EAG MEETING, BUT, AS YOU CAN SURMISE, THE NEGOTIATIONS ARE DIFFICULT AND WILL EXTEND AT LEAST INTO MARCH. NORWEGIAN INTEREST AND SUPPORT IS MUCH APPRECIATED. WE NEED ALL THE SUPPORT WE CAN MUSTER. THEREFORE WE HOPE THAT FRYDENLUND WILL RECONSIDER HIS INTENTION NOT TO RAISE HIMSELF THE SUBJECT OF THE BASE NEGOTIATIONS FOR, ALTHOUGH WE EXPECT THAT THE ICELANDERS WILL BRING IT UP, A FAILURE BY FRYDENLUND TO WEIGH IN MAY BE TAKEN BY INFLUENTIAL ICELANDERS AS AN INDICATION THAT THE GON IS NOT SERIOUSLY AFFECTED OR PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN THE OUTCOME OF THESE NEGOTIATIONS. KISSINGER

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